

Amendment of Specification

TITLE OF THE INVENTION

METHOD OF PRODUCING LOW PROFILE STENT AND GRAFT COMBINATION

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

now abandoned

The present application is a division of ~~co-pending~~ ^A United States Patent Application Serial Number 09/235,458, filed January 22, 1999.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to methods of producing endoprosthetic devices, such as stents and stent-grafts, that are used to repair and/or treat diseased or damaged vessels and other structures within a body, and particularly to such devices that can be introduced at small delivery profiles and then enlarged in place.

2. Description of Related Art

Stents and stent-grafts are used in the treatment of vascular and other disease. They are particularly useful for treatment of vascular or arterial occlusion or stenosis typically associated with vessels narrowed by disease. Intraluminal stents and stent-grafts function to hold these vessels open mechanically. In some instances, they may be used subsequent to, or as an adjunct to, a balloon angioplasty procedure. Stent-grafts, which include a graft cover, are also particularly useful for the treatment of aneurysms. An aneurysm may be characterized as a sac formed by the dilatation of a wall or an artery, vein, or vessel. Typically the aneurysm is filled with fluid or clotted blood. The stent-graft provides a graft liner to reestablish a flow lumen through the aneurysm as well as a stent structure to support the graft and to resist occlusion or stenosis.

Treatment of a bifurcation site afflicted with such defects as an occlusion, stenosis, or aneurysm is a particularly demanding application for either stents or stent-grafts. A bifurcation site is generally where a single lumen or artery (often called the "trunk") splits into two lumens or arteries (often called "branches"), such as in a "Y" configuration. For example, one such bifurcation site is found within the human body at the location where the abdominal aorta branches into the left and right (or ipsilateral and contralateral, respectively) iliac arteries.